

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) Piston engine (1), in particular an axial piston engine or radial piston engine, with a housing (2) in which a shaft (19) is rotatably mounted in two pivot bearings (25, 26) of which at least one pivot bearing has an inner ring (26a) which is seated, without radial clearance of motion, on a supporting region (28) of a bearing section (19e) of said shaft (19), ~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the axial length of the supporting region (19) corresponds to a central region (a) of the bearing section (19e) and, at the two outer regions (b, c), a radial clearance of motion is disposed between said outer regions (b, c) and the inner ring (26a).

2. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the bearing section (19e) has a greater diameter in the central region (a) than in its outer regions (b, c).

3. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the inner ring (26a) has a smaller diameter in its central region (a) than in its outer regions (b, c).

4. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein  
the central region (a) amounts to about 1/2 to 1/4, and in particular to about 1/3, of the length (L)  
of the bearing section (~~19e~~).
5. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein  
the central region (a) is of cylindrical construction.
6. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein  
the outer regions (~~b, e~~) are shaped in a manner converging towards their edges that face away  
from the central regions (a) and, in particular, are narrowed in a step-shaped manner.
7. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to claim 6,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
the outer regions (~~b, e~~) are narrowed in a cylindrical manner.
8. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein  
the housing (2) has a pot-shaped housing part and a cover (~~2d~~), the pivot bearing (26)  
constructed in accordance with the invention being disposed in said cover (~~2d~~).

9. (Currently Amended) Piston engine according to claim 8,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the pivot bearing (26) according to the invention is a plain bearing or a rolling bearing, in particular a needle bearing.

10. (Currently Amended) Shaft (19) for a piston engine, in particular an axial piston engine or radial piston engine, with a housing (2) in which said shaft (19) is rotatably mounted in two pivot bearings (25, 26) of which at least one pivot bearing (26) has an inner ring (26a) which is seated, without radial clearance of motion, on a supporting region (28) of a bearing section (19e) of said shaft (19),

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the axial length of the supporting region (28) corresponds to a central region (a) of the bearing section (19e) and said bearing section (19e) has a greater diameter in the central region (a) than in its outer regions (b, c).

11. (Currently Amended) Shaft according to claim 10,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the central region (a) amounts to about 1/2 to 1/4, and in particular to about 1/3, of the length (L) of the bearing section (19e).

12. (Currently Amended) Shaft according to claim 11,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the central region (a) is of cylindrical construction.

13. (Currently Amended) Shaft according to ~~one of the preceding claims 10 to 12,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ claim 10, wherein  
the outer regions (~~b, c~~) are shaped in a manner converging towards their edges that face away from the central regions (~~a~~) and, in particular, are narrowed in a step-shaped manner.

14. (Currently Amended) Shaft according to claim 13,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
the outer regions (~~b, c~~) are narrowed in a cylindrical manner.

15. (Currently Amended) Rolling bearing for a piston engine, in particular an axial piston engine or radial piston engine, with a housing (2) in which a shaft (19) is rotatably mounted in two pivot bearings (25, 26) of which at least one pivot bearing (26) has an inner ring (26a) which is seated without radial clearance of motion in a supporting region (28) on the bearing section (~~19c~~) of said shaft (19),

~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
the axial length of the supporting region (28) corresponds to a central region (~~a~~) of the inner ring (26a) and said inner ring (26a) has a smaller diameter in its central region (~~a~~) than in its outer regions (~~b, c~~).

16. (Currently Amended) Rolling bearing according to claim 15,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
the central region (~~a~~) amounts to about 1/2 to 1/4, and in particular to about 1/3, of the length (L) of the inner ring (26a).

17. (Currently Amended) Rolling bearing according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the central region (a) is of hollow-cylindrical construction.

18. (Currently Amended) Rolling bearing according to ~~one of claims 15 to 17~~,

~~characterised in that~~ claim 15, wherein

the outer regions (b, c) are shaped in a manner diverging towards their edges that face away from the central regions (a) and, in particular, are widened in a step-shaped manner.

19. (Currently Amended) Rolling bearing according to claim 18,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the outer regions (b, c) are widened in a hollow-cylindrical manner.

20. (Currently Amended) Rolling bearing according to ~~one of the preceding claims 15 to 19~~,

~~characterised in that~~ claim 15, wherein

said bearing is a needle bearing.